

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9694
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
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SUBJECT: KREUTH II CONTAINS NO SURPRISES

REF: MUNICH 209

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. AS EXPECTED, CLOSED MEETING OF
CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES AT WILDBAD KREUTH JANUARY 12-14
GENERATED NO REPEAT NO DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS. AT PRESS
CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING, HOWEVER, CSU "LANDESGRUPPE"
LEADER ZIMMERMANN LEFT NO REPEAT DOUBT THAT CSU LEADERSHIP
EXPECTS THAT UPCOMING LANDTAG ELECTIONS WILL CONFIRM CSU
CONVICTION THAT INTERESTS OF UNION ARE BEST SERVED BY
PURSUIT OF FLEXIBLE, HARD-LINE STRATEGY AGAINST BOTH
BONN COALITION PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ZIMMERMANN TOLD PRESS AT ROTTACH-EGERN (NEAR KREUTH)
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JANUARY 14 THAT CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES HAD REACHED THE
CONCLUSION THAT EARLY 1979, AFTER THE 1978 LANDTAG
ELECTIONS, WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO FORMULATE A
CONCRETE OPPOSITION STRATEGY FOR 1980 BUNDESTAG ELECTION
AND TO AGREE ON CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE. IN MEANTIME,
CSU WILL OBSERVE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ANALYZE
WHY FRG VOTERS HAVE VOTED FOR SPECIFIC PARTIES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, ZIMMERMANN IMPLIED THAT CSU LEADERSHIP WOULD WAIT UNTIL EARLY 1979 TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON MERITS OF CSU BUNDESTAG ELECTION EFFORT OUTSIDE BAVARIA.

4. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT CSU CANDIDATE PREFERENCE FOR 1979 ELECTION FOR FEDERAL PRESIDENT (BUNDESPRAESIDENT), ZIMMERMANN SAID HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT CONSIDER IT BEYOND THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE THAT THE CDU/CSU MAJORITY IN THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY (BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG) WOULD SUPPORT THE ELECTION OF A CANDIDATE OUTSIDE THE CDU OR CSU. THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A SCENARIO WOULD BE ENHANCED IF BY SUPPORTING A NON CDU/CSU CANDIDATE, THE CDU AND CSU WERE TO OBTAIN A COALITION PARTNER WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO OVERTURN THE "NEVERENDING COALITION" (DAUERKOALITION) IN BONN. IN THIS CONNECTION, ZIMMERMANN WAS CAREFUL NOT REPEAT NOT TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CSU SUPPORT FOR THE REELECTION OF PRESIDENT SCHEEL.

5. COMMENT. CONGEN DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INTERPRET ZIMMERMANN'S REMARKS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CSU SUPPORT FOR AN FDP CANDIDATE FOR FEDERAL PRESIDENT AS SIGNALING A CHANGE IN THE CSU'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FDP. THE CSU'S OVERRIDING GOAL HAS BEEN AND REMAINS TO COME TO POWER WITH THE CDU IN 1980 OR BEFORE. EACH OF THE STRATEGIC MODELS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS HAS SUGGESTED HAS BEEN AIMED AT THIS GOAL. IF IT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY MEANS OF A DEAL WITH THE FDP ON THE NEXT FEDERAL PRESIDENT, THE CSU WOULD READILY AGREE.

6. CONGEN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE ERRONEOUS, HOWEVER, TO CONCLUDE THAT CSU WOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO THE SINGLE OPTION OF MAKING SUCH A DEAL WITH THE FDP. STRAUSS, WHO HAS CONSTANTLY CRITICIZED KOHL FOR PLACING UNION'S CHANCES OF COMING TO POWER AT MERCY OF FDP, WOULD HARDLY DO THE VERY SAME THING HIMSELF. BETTS

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